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It is a truism that nobody's anthology suits anybody else, but the present one\* comes very near covering the ground for a Christmas anthology. Mr. Mabie's introduction has all the grace and geniality we have learned to look to him for. We should like to know more of W. P. R. from whom some beautiful selections are taken. We much regret the absence of George Macdonald's—

“They all were looking for a king”

and the most exquisite of the early Christmas poems:

“He cam al so still.”

The woodcuts are quaint and fitting, but photographs as illustrations to books are always hopelessly vulgar. Should there be a second edition, we should enter a plea to have these omitted as not only ugly in kind, but commonplace in choice and robbing the book of any touch of distinction.

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The world and not the back yard is the playground of the modern child, and in this well-chosen collection we have stories from Scandinavia, China, Wales, Ireland, India, Dalmatia, Germany, Spain, France, Russia, Portugal, Japan.† They are not, we need hardly say, drawn from original sources, but are gathered together from accessible books and give in small space a wide range of literature. In the main they are well chosen and hold close to the simple, natural folk-tale. There are no illustrations, but the binding is exceedingly pretty.

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Miss Brown has always felt great sympathy for the animals, wild and domestic, and made many years ago a charming book of “Saints and Friendly Beasts.” The present volume‡ is a romantic and very interesting tale of a boy stolen in babyhood and brought up as a tumbler. He finds his way alone to a hermit in the woods who has tamed all the wild animals, and a charming description is given of his life in the forest with a large family consisting of a dog, a wolf, a bear, a cat and her kittens, a doe and all the birds. There is, too, an exciting plot and plenty of adventure

\* “The Book of Christmas.” With an introduction by Hamilton Wright Mabie. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1909.

† “Tales of Wonder.” Edited by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1909.

‡ “John of the Woods.” By Abbie Farwell Brown. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1909.